Export of agricultural produce

*278. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any measures to improve the exports of agricultural produce; if so, how far they are successful in this respect; and

(b) what steps are being taken to ensure the quality of agricultural produce in order to compete in the inter-national market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) In order to increase the exports of agricultural commodities the Government has set up Commodity Boards/Export Promotion Councils which interact with the producers and exporters. Trade Delegations are sent abroad and there is participation in International Fairs. Government has granted Cash Compensatory Support and REP (IMPORT REPLENISHMENT) on various items. The exports of agricultural commodities have shown a steady progress.

(b) The Directorate of Marketing & Inspection and Export Inspection Agencies maintain control over quality.

Kaziranga National Park, Assam

*279. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Kaziranga National Park in Assam has been in a state of gradual diminution in area due to floods and erosion over the years and as a result thereof rare species of animals face extinction in the Park; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take for the protection of this tourist spot of international attraction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) It is reported that the loss in area due to floods and erosion in the Kaziranga National Park is insignificant and no animals there are threatened with extinction because of this diminution of area of the park.

(b) Steps taken and proposed for the protection of the Kaziranga National Park include:

(i) Raising of ground for making artificial mounds where animals, particularly the smaller mammals can seek shelter during floods;

(ii) Removal of water hyacinth and de-silting of water ponds (beels) to improve their water retention capacity.

(iii) Increased deployment of protection staff with provision for jeeps, motorboats, arms and wireless equipment.

(iv) Central assistance released for the development of the Kaziranga National Park in VI Plan and so far in VII Plan is Rs. 16.08 lakhs and Rs. 92.88 lakhs respectively.

(v) Implementation of the Rs. 5.00 crore Centrally Sponsored "Rhinow Conservation" Scheme in Kaziranga National Park since 1986-87 and continued Central financial assistance for the development of the park during VII Plan.

(vi) Formulation of a proposal to extend the existing National Park area of 430 sq. kms. by addition of another about 450 sq. kms.

Allocation of fund for the Development of Zoological Park and Lion Safari in Punjab

*280. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have allocated any fund for the development of the M. M. Choudhary Zoological Park and the Lion Safari at Chhat Bir in Punjab; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Fund allocated for the development of the M. M. Choudhary Zoological Park by the Central Government are as under:—

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1982-83	2·00
1983-84	1·85
1984-85	0·94
TOTAL	4·79

Funds have not been allocated for the development of the Lion Safari at Chhat Bir in Punjab by the Central Government.

Appeal concerning the murder of late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi

@2312. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the stage of appeal concerning the murder of Late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi;

(b) how much time was taken for the trial and also for hearing of appeal; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The judgement in this case has been been delivered by the Supreme Court.

(b) 11-1/2 months were taken for trial by the Session Court, 9-1/2 months by the High Court to confirm the death sentences on the three accussed an 15 months by the Supreme Court to hear the appeals.

(c) There has been no inordinate delay.

Consortium to boost processed food exports

†2313. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'Times of India' dated the 7th July, 1988 regarding the need for consortium to boost processed food exports;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to create such consortium; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Government for some of the suggestions with regard to the promotion of export of the processed food mentioned therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal being considered by the Government for the present.

Smuggling of coal from West Bengal to Bangladesh

@@2314. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal worth about Rs. 10 crores is smuggled out annually from West Bengal to Bangladesh;

(b) whether any steps have taken to stop this smuggling; and

(c) if so, what are details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE

@Previously Unstarred Question 1227, transferred from the 4th August, 1988.

†Previously Unstarred Question 1400, transferred from the 5th August, 1988.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 1515, transferred from the 8th August, 1988.